

**REMARKS**

**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 11-14 were previously withdrawn from consideration and thus, have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2 and 16 have been also cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1, 10, 15 and 27 have been amended. Claims 28 and 29 have been newly added. No new matter is being presented.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-10, 15 and 17-29 are currently pending in this application.

**II. SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE ACTION**

Claims 21-27 are currently pending but the outstanding Office Action did not address these claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner address the status of claims 21-27.

**III. THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-8 AND 15-20 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY HAKIMI ET AL.**

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a method comprising, amongst other novel elements, "supplying a compressed optical signal output from said **first optical fiber** to an optical device having a saturated gain, and supplying an optical signal output from said optical device to a **second optical fiber**."

Independent claim 15, as amended, recites a system comprising, amongst other novel features, "an optical device to which a compressed optical signal output from said **first optical fiber** is supplied, said optical device having a saturated gain, and a **second optical fiber** to which an optical signal output from said optical device is supplied."

Hakimi discloses an apparatus to compensate chromatic and polarization dispersion and transmitter frequency chirp in fiber optical communication systems in order to increase data rate (column 1, lines 8-13). For example, Hakimi discloses at FIG. 1, a compensator consisting of two stages 1-4 and 1-6. A linear polarized light 1-2 suffering from chromatic dispersion and frequency chirp is conditioned in the first stage 1-4 of the compensator in such a way that each

wavelength component of the input beam is converted into different states of polarization. The second stage of the compensator 1-6 has different time delay for each state of polarization. The time delay in the second stage of the compensator is selected (or adjusted) so that the slow wavelength components in the lightwave overtake the fast components of the beam, thereby compressing the input pulse (column 4, lines 65-67 and column 5, lines 1-9). Hakimi further teaches birefringent fibers having a core 3-2 and principal axes 3-4 and 3-6 (FIG. 3, and column 5, lines 63-65).

Accordingly, Hakimi discloses an apparatus for compensating chromatic dispersion and polarization dispersion and frequency chirp in fiber, using a wavelength to polarization transformer, a polarization to delay converter, and birefringent fibers.

However, Hakimi fails to teach or suggest "supplying a compressed optical signal output from said first optical fiber to an optical device having a saturated gain, and supplying an optical signal output from said optical device to a second optical fiber," as recited in newly amended independent claims 1 and 15.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn because Hakimi fails to teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 1 and 15, as amended.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 3-8 and 17-20 are allowable at least because of their dependence from claims 1 and 15, respectively, and for the reasons set forth above.

Additionally, claims 2 and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thus rendering their rejection moot.

IV. THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 9-10 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER HAKIMI AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF WATANABE

Claims 9 and 10 depend upon independent claim 1. As discussed above, Hakimi fails to teach or suggest the features recited in newly amended independent claim 1.

Watanabe fails to cure the deficiencies of Hakimi.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn because neither Hakimi nor Watanabe, whether taken singly or combined teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 1, as amended, upon

which claims 9 and 10 depend from.

V. CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 10, 15 and 27 have been amended. Claims 2 and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 28 and 29 have been newly added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-10, 15 and 17-29 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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